



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



GOVERNOR NOEM PROCLAIMS VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

At the request of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, Governor Kristi Noem has proclaimed Friday, March 29, 2019, as "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day," calling on all South Dakotans to recognize the courage, service and sacrifice of the men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

Some served as ground troops in a combat capacity in country, some were a mile off shore in a Navy ship providing gunfire support, some were air support, while others provided the necessary support roles both in Vietnam, other nearby posts and some back in the States that are so vital during a foreign engagement. Whatever the specific method of service, all were affected in some way by that experience.

"More than 27,000 South Dakotans served valiantly under difficult circumstances during the Vietnam War and 210 made the ultimate sacrifice," said Governor Kristi Noem. "Through the establishment of an annual statewide Vietnam Veterans recognition day, South Dakotans can express their appreciation and honor the men and women who served during the Vietnam War"

"It is America's veterans and their families who keenly understand the meaning of the word sacrifice," said Greg Whitlock, Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. "For some of them, sacrifice has meant living with serious injuries. For all of them, it meant missing holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and the small but irreplaceable memories that come with normal everyday life."

"On this special day, we encourage our fellow Americans to join us in remembering and honoring those who served during the Vietnam War with the gratitude and respect that they deserve," said Whitlock.

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**2019 NATIONAL
VIETNAM
WAR
VETERANS DAY**



VA PIONEERS NEW APPROACHES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

A recent [study](#) by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published in the [Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open](#) on March 1, showed positive outcomes for veterans struggling with multiple mental health conditions.

The randomized implementation trial, which included 5,596 veterans receiving care in a VA outpatient mental health clinic, showed that effective teamwork and a patient's active involvement in their care can reduce hospitalization rates for veterans with mental health conditions.

"The VA is committed to ensuring veterans receive the best mental health care available," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said. "Combining best practices, such as those identified in the study allows the VA to continually refine our mental health services."

The [study](#) outlines effective steps for veterans, their clinicians and the larger VA health care system to all work together to positively impact the mental health of veterans. The new collaborative, interdisciplinary team approach to outpatient mental health, demonstrated:

- Reduced rate of mental health hospitalizations among veterans treated by the teams.
- Improved mental health status for veterans with multiple mental health conditions.
- Improved clinician team function in terms of clarity of team member roles and prioritization of team over individual goals.

During the study, researchers worked with existing [VA Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program \(BHIP\)](#) teams in mental health outpatient clinics. BHIP teams generally comprise psychiatrists, psychologists, RN care managers, advanced practice nurses, peer support specialists, social workers and licensed therapists.

Researchers helped these teams to align their care processes with the scientifically proven (i.e., evidence-based) Collaborative Chronic Care Model (CCM), which is an approach for integrating behavioral health care and engaging veterans to be active participants in their care. This study extended the CCM, which had been scientifically proven to improve outcomes in formal clinical research trials, to VA outpatient clinics.

As a result of the findings collected during the trial and based off veteran health status and satisfaction data gathered during telephone interviews at baseline and at six and 12 months of support, the VA plans to nationally implement the unique team-based model of care over the next two years to benefit more veterans and those who care for them.

SDDVA'S WOMEN IN HISTORY

March has been designated as "National Women's History Month." "Visionary Women: Champions of Peace & Nonviolence," is the 2019 Women's History Month theme.

Visionary women, champions of peace, best describes nine women veterans that work for the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and eight women veterans that serve as county and tribal veterans service officers. We are very fortunate to have these special visionary women, who donned the uniform, walked the trenches, served their country and today serve as advocates for thousands of veterans.

SDDVA heroes helping heroes include:
Heather Bullerman, Program Manager II
Erin Brown, SDDVA Program Manager II
Erin Bultje, SDDVA Program Manager I
Michelle Henderson, State Veterans Service Officer
Katherine Richardson, State Veterans Service Officer
Shannon Phillips, State Veterans Service Officer
Heather Catchpole, Executive Secretary
Ann Reminton, RN/MDS Coordinator
Carla Rivera, Social Worker

CTVSO heroes helping heroes include:
Cindy Aden, Clay County
Jana Virtue, Custer County
Courtney Van Zanten, Lake County
Susan Irons, Lincoln and Union County
Jerlene Arredondo, Oglala Lakota County
Angela Beacom, Roberts County
Shawnee Red Bear, Oglala Sioux Tribe
Geri Opsal, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate.

Please join SDDVA in saluting these special 17 women who have, and continue to be, champions, advocates, selfless, loyal, noble and unselfish leaders. They are dedicated advocates for our country's veterans. These heroes help us repay our Nation's debt of gratitude to its veterans every day.



L to R: Heather Bullerman, Katherine Richardson, Erin Bultje, Erin Brown, Michelle Henderson and Shannon Phillips.



L to R: Heather Catchpole, Ann Remington and Carla Rivera

SD VETERANS COUNCIL GATHERED THIS WEEK

Members of the South Dakota Veterans Council met in Sioux Falls this week. Reports were given by the Sioux Falls VA Health Care System and staffers from the South Dakota Congressional offices.

SDDVA Secretary Whitlock and Deputy Secretary Pollard provided updates on the 2019 Legislative Session and the State Veterans Cemetery. Ken Teunissen provided an update on the status of the State Veterans Cemetery Endowment Fund.

Members discussed bylaw review, upcoming election of officers and the South Dakota State Fair.

The Veterans Council is scheduled to meet next on July 17 at 10:00 am at the PVA headquarters in Sioux Falls.

APRIL 12—PURPLE UP!

Friday, April 12th, is PURPLE UP! for Military Kids Day in South Dakota. The Purple Up! concept is a combined effort with the National Guard Child & Youth Program and communities nationwide to encourage everyone to wear purple as a visible way to show support and thanks to our military children for their strength and sacrifices. Please help us to honor them.

This is a time for us to celebrate and recognize our military youth for all that they do. There are over 7,100 military youth in South Dakota, and over 3,900 of these youth are affiliated with the Army and Air National Guard.

Why Purple? Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported; Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all thought to combine together as a single color, purple.



VA MAKES NEW NASAL SPRAY DRUG AVAILABLE FOR DEPRESSION TREATMENT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced its health care providers will now be able to offer the newly approved Spravato nasal spray for treatment-resistant depression.

The treatment will be made available to veterans based on their individual medical needs combined with providers' clinical assessments.

The move follows the March 5 Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of Spravato (esketamine) nasal spray. Spravato was approved for use in conjunction with an oral antidepressant for the treatment of treatment-resistant depression in adults.

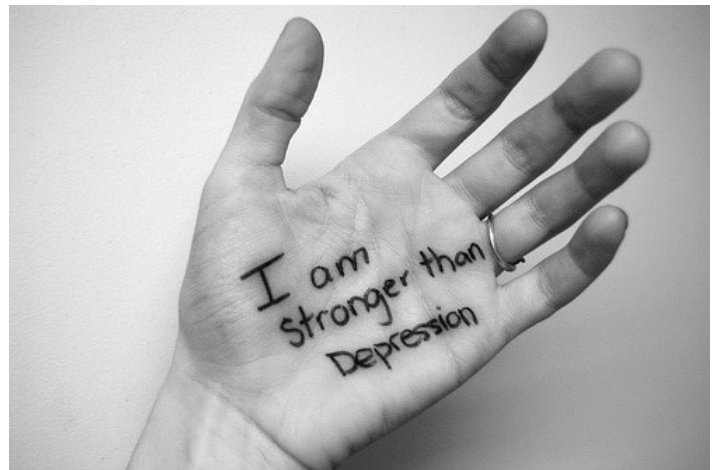
"We're pleased to be able to expand options for veterans with depression who have not responded to other treatments," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "It reflects our commitment to seek new ways to provide the best health care available for our nation's veterans."

Spravato will be available through a restricted distribution system under an FDA-approved Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS). The purpose of the REMS is to mitigate the risks of serious adverse outcomes and the potential abuse and misuse of Spravato.

VA health care providers will monitor veterans for serious adverse outcomes, such as sedation and difficulty with attention, judgment and thinking (dissociation), abuse and misuse, worsening of depression and suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Veterans will self-administer Spravato nasal spray under the direct observation of a health care provider in a certified medical facility, and then must be monitored by a health care provider for at least two hours after receiving their dose. Spravato cannot be dispensed directly to veterans for use at home.

For additional information on access to Mental Health Support for veterans, visit [VA Mental Health](#). Veterans in immediate crisis may call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and press 1, text to 838255 or chat online at [Veterans Crisis Line](#).



AMERICAN LEGION POST #46 CELEBRATES 100TH



American Legion South Dakota Department Commander Denny Brenden briefed those in attendance on national and state legislative issues.



Legionnaires and guests gathered last weekend at Crazy Horse Memorial to celebrate the 100th birthdays of the American Legion and the Custer America Legion Post #46.

Custer County Veterans Service Officer Jana Virtue attended the great celebration.

Two World War II veterans, Floyd R. Mills and Harold Stickney, cut the birthday cake using a Naval Officer's sword.

The program consisted of recognition for public safety, public service, continuous membership, and blood donor achievement by post members.







NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY 29 MARCH

Join the Nation...

*Thank a Vietnam Veteran for Service to our Nation
You are invited to attend a commemorative
ceremony on March 29, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. at the
Black Hills National Cemetery Interment Shelter*



*U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active duty service
between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975,
regardless of location of service.*



vietnamwar50th.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 26—VABHHCS Whole Health Program—Hot Springs Building 12—Room A002—10:00 am—12:00 pm (MT)
Mar 29—Vietnam Veterans Open House—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—1:00—3:00 pm (CT)
Mar 29—Vietnam/Vietnam Era Veterans Reception—SFVAHCS Front Foyer—4:00 pm—6:00 pm (CT)
Mar 29—Black Hills National Cemetery Vietnam War Veterans Day commemorative ceremony—Interment Shelter—9:30 am (MT)
Mar 30—Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in South Dakota
Apr 6—State MOPH Convention—Rapid City DAV (101 E. Madison Street) - 1:00 pm (MT)
April 12—Purple Up for Military Kids
Apr 13—Boots to Business Reboot—Zeal Center of Entrepreneurship (2328 N. Career Ave.) - Sioux Falls—8:30 am—4:30 pm (CT)
Apr 19—State Offices Closed
Apr 22—State Offices Closed
May 7—MidWest Honor Flight Welcome Home Ceremony—Sioux Falls Convention Center—7:45 pm (CT)
May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—TREA (1981 Centre Street)—Rapid City—10:00 am—3:00 pm (MT)
May 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—Post 8 American Legion (520 S. Pierre Street)—Pierre—10:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
May 9—SDDVA Mini Conference—VFW (3601 S. Minnesota Avenue)—Sioux Falls—10:00 am—3:00 pm (CT)
May 14—Bill Casper's Annual WW II Luncheon—TREA—Rapid City
May 17—Veterans Honor Concert—State Veterans Home—Hot Springs—2:00 pm (MT)
May 17-19—DAV Convention—Hilton Garden Inn (5300 S. Grand Circle) —Sioux Falls
May 27—MJFSVH Memorial Day Car Show—Hot Springs—2:00 pm (MT)
Jun 13-16—VFW State Convention—Dakota State University—Madison
July 20-24—National VFW Convention—Orlando, FL
Aug 3-6—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL
Aug 29—Veterans Day at the Fair
Aug 26-29—SDDVA Benefit School



Audry Ricketts, Public Information Officer

South Dakota Department of the Military <http://military.sd.gov>

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov>

Soldiers and Sailors Building - 425 E Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-8242

E-mail address: audry.ricketts@state.sd.us

